

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

Confirmation No. 6670

TASAKI, Michihide

Group Art Unit: 2851

Appln. No.: 09/741,016

Examiner: KIM, Peter B.

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Title: ID CARD USING EXTRACTED IMAGE (AS AMENDED)

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January 30, 2003

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATIONHon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated October 30, 2002, reconsideration and allowance of this Application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-6, 8-10 and 12-14 are pending in the application.

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 3, 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,410,642, issued to Hakamatsuka et al. ("Hakamatsuka") in view of U.S. Patent 6,421,110, issued to Yakawa. The Office Action rejected claims 4-6, 9, 10, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,410,642, issued to Hakamatsuka et al. ("Hakamatsuka") in view of U.S. Patent 6,421,110, issued to Yakawa and U.S. Patent 6,356,339, issued to Enomoto. Applicant traverses the rejection because neither Hakamatsuka, Yakawa nor Enomoto, analyzed alone or in any combination, teach or suggest all the combined features recited in the present application.

Hakamatsuka teaches extracting a figure image, a technique for preventing forgery based on changing background data and a technique for making an ID card. However, the

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Office Action concedes that Hakamatsuka fails to teach or suggest detecting and extracting the image and extracting a figure image and producing composite image with a different background.

To compensate for the deficiencies of Hakamatsuka, the Office Action relies upon the teachings of Yakawa and Enomoto. Based upon the teachings of Yakawa and Enomoto, the Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide an apparatus and method having all the features recited in the claims of the present application. Applicant disagrees.

Yakawa merely discloses a digital exposure type photo processing apparatus in which a film scanner 3 reads an image frame (effective image data) and a surrounding area (surrounding area data) from photographic film 1. In Yakawa, effective image extracting section 62, using a predetermined algorithm, checks the RGB density values of each pixel and the density distribution of each pixel so that surrounding image data may be ascertained and the effective image data extracted (See, col. 5, lines 56-61). However, Applicant respectfully notes that Yakawa does not teach or suggest detection of the photograph edge, as recited in the claims of the present invention. In particular, Yakawa fails to teach or suggest detecting a photograph edge by comparing vertical and horizontal components of the photograph portion detected by the photograph position detection means with those of predetermined photograph size, as recited in independent claims 2-4, 8-9 and 12-13.

Enomoto merely discloses an image synthesis technique for producing a print having an arbitrary background or characters. And, like Yakawa, it also fails to teach all the recited combination of features of the present invention.

In an embodiment of the present invention, an image of a predetermined area of an ID card application form is read, and a photograph edge is detected based on the read image data. Specifically, an ID card application form is read, and the image data obtained is

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processed with a spatial filter to extract vertical and horizontal components thereof. Vertical and horizontal components are also obtained from the line, character or photograph portions of the ID card application form. (Applicant notes that the size of the photograph attached to the ID card application form is predetermined. Thus, a combination of vertical and horizontal components corresponding to a preset photograph size may be determined beforehand.) The extracted vertical and horizontal components are compared with the horizontal and vertical components of the predetermined photograph size to detect the photograph edge.

Since Yakawa and Enomoto fail to teach or suggest detecting a photograph edge as discussed above and recited in the claims of the present application, no combination of Hakamatsuka, Yakawa or Enomoto, as suggested by the Office Action, would provide an ID card-making apparatus, method or ID card having the combined feature recited in the claims of the present application. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 8-9 and 12-13 and dependent claims 5, 6, 10 and 14 are patentable over Hakamatsuka, Yakawa and Enomoto. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

The Office Action further rejected claims 4-6, 9, 10, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unparentable over Hakamatsuka in view of Yakawa and U.S. Patent 5,914,748, issued to Parulski, et al. ("Parulski"). Applicants traverse the rejection because neither Hakamatsuka, Yakawa nor Parulski, analyzed alone or in combination, teach or suggest our claimed combination of features, such as detecting a photograph edge or extracting a photographic image without its edge.

Parulski discloses an electronic imaging system useful for composing images in which first and second images are subtracted to generate a difference image, and the difference image is processed to generate a mask image. More particularly, in Parulski, a figure image is extracted from the rest of an image field. However, Parulski does not teach or suggest detecting a photograph edge by comparing vertical and horizontal components

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included in image data obtained by the image reading means with those of predetermined photograph size, as recited in independent claims 4, 9 and 13 of the present application.

As discussed above, Yakawa and Hakamatsuka also fail to teach or suggest all the combined features recited in the present application. Thus, claims 4, 9 and 13 and their dependent claims 5-6, 10 and 14 are patentable over the applied combination of Hakamatsuka, Yakawa and Parulski. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

All matters having been attended to, Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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